

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 161 without my signature.

While I am supportive of providing students with information that affects their rights, this bill is unnecessary. Under current law, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) can and should be posting information on the Department of Education website to assist students in understanding their rights and helping them with important issues. Furthermore, this bill is not inclusive enough of all the rights and issues important to our students' welfare, such as a student's right to request confidentiality when reporting whether he or she has been abused or sexually assaulted.

I encourage the Legislature and any other interested parties to work with Superintendent O'Connell to ensure that he provides as much information to students and parents to maintain the health and welfare of children in schools.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger